

## POLITENESS OF THE MEXICANS.

An Engineer's Experience With It After a Session With Tequila.

"For manifesting a grave and imperturbable countenance in every circumstance of life give me the Mexican people," said a civil engineer who lived in the southwest. "Here is a case in point. A dozen years ago I was visiting Hermosillo, the capital of Sonora, and falling in with an old engineering comrade one afternoon we drank not a little tequila. Tequila, or mesquite, perhaps you know, is a clear white liquor distilled from the century plant and possessing much of the taste and potency of Irish whiskey. There was a circus in town, and in the evening Johnson and I went up the street to see it. The performance did not greatly interest us, and we left the show before it was half through and started down the street on our way to the hotel. The tequila we had drunk was still animating us and inspiring a spirit of adventure. As we came opposite the great house of Dr. Monteverde, one of the grandees of Sonora, we saw perched on a stone post at the entrance of the courtyard a white turkey, and here we stopped and fell to guessing as to the weight of the bird.

"At last, to settle our difference of opinion, we started in to catch the turkey. It ran into the courtyard, and we followed. Upon the veranda at one side of the courtyard the household were sitting enjoying the evening coolness. At our unceremonious advent they raised not a word of protest, but only laughed as the turkey ran wildly around, with Johnson and me in pursuit. After a long chase we caught the bird, and approaching the group on the veranda tried to inform them that we should like a pair of scales to weigh it with. Neither Johnson nor I had an idea what the Spanish word for scales was, and so we indicated the best we could by signs what we wanted. They showed much interest in the endeavor to catch our meaning, and at last we made ourselves understood.

"St. senior, hold the head of the house, with perfect bonhomie, and calling a servant gave him some directions in Spanish. The servant departed, and presently came back with a pair of scales, which were placed at our disposal. We weighed the turkey, set the bird at liberty, returned the scales with thanks, and declining the courteous invitation of the hospitable household that we should sit down and have a glass of wine we lifted our hats and went on our way.

"Fancy two strangers invading private premises and going through such a madcap performance anywhere else you have ever heard of, and then tell me the Mexicans are not the politest people in the world."—New York Sun.

## A HORSE THAT EATS PIES.

He Likes Them Better Than Oats and Prefers Them to the Mince Ones.

Leonard Jacobs, a pie peddler, has one of the most remarkable horses in Connecticut. Other towns have boasted of horses that chew tobacco, chew gum and drink beer, but Jacobs' horse will eat pie. The horse is 23 years old. Jacobs' pies come from New Haven, packed in cases, and in transportation some of them generally get broken and cannot be sold. One day Jacobs threw a broken pie on the ground near the horse's head. The animal smelled it, touched it with his tongue, lapped it up and ate it with a relish. Then Jacobs began to feed pies to the horse. The horse soon got to like them and would even refuse oats when pie was to be had. The habit has grown on him until now, when Jacobs says "pie" to him, the horse will turn his head and wink expectantly.

He has a decided preference for mince pie, and the more raisins and currants and cider there are the better he is pleased. Apple pie is not a great favorite with him. Most bakers put grated nutmeg into the apple pie, and this doesn't seem to agree with the equine taste. Pumpkin pie he likes, and cranberry tarts are an especial delight. Peach, apricot, berry and prune pies are acceptable, but unless the prunes are stoned he will not touch prune pie or the first bite. The horse is fat, sleek and youthful in his movements, and Jacobs expects to keep him on the pie cart until he is long past the age when most horses are turned out to graze for the rest of their days or are carted to the horse cemetery by the side of the murky waters of the Naugatuck river.—Baltimore American.

## Poker Prevents Seasickness.

"One of the surest preventives of seasickness is draw poker," said Hugh S. Koyson of St. Louis. "I have tried it and am willing to recommend it. One day I was on a steamer bound for the Atlantic in the City of Paris. We had a rough voyage, and at times it looked as though the Paris was bent on turning bottom side up. The captain, however, said his nautilus experience was great and the passengers were somewhat reassured. But at the very outset of the trip I joined a party of five citizens of the United States, and we played poker day and night, with only needed intervals for sleep. The game was only for a small limit, but it was jolly and interesting, and it effectively banished the mal de mer. Now and then a player would leave just for a short space to commune with the deep, but would invariably get back in time to play his hand, and the game suffered no delay. There was a clear case of mental excitement and diversion ruling the physical man, for outside of the poker party hardly a passenger aboard escaped a very prolonged sickness."—Washington Star.

## A Double Paradox.

The capacity of the English language for the making of paradoxes or apparent but not real contradictions is almost unlimited.

Two men were riding in an electric car recently when it was stopped by a street blockade. As they were near their destination, they decided to get out and walk. The track was soon cleared, however, and the car overtook them.

"When we left the car," said one of them, "I thought that we should get on better by getting off. But, after all, we should have been better off if we had staid on."—Youth's Companion.

## Priests and Beards.

The beardless priest is only a matter of custom, there being no edict upon the subject. All of the popes from Adrian VI to Innocent XII and all the cardinals and other church dignitaries during the same period were bearded dignitaries. Ignatius Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, Francis de Sales, Vincent de Paul and the Cardinals Bellarmine and Richelieu all wore full beards.—St. Louis Republic.

## Social Evolution.

Miss De Fashion (a few years hence)—You are wanted at the telephone. Mrs. De Fashion—Oh, dear! I presume it's Mrs. De Style to return my telephone call. I hope she won't talk long.—London Tit-Bits.

## DIALECT IN NOVELS.

The Time Coming When Good English Will Be Written.

There are indications—not very marked as yet, but still indications—that the day of the dialect novelist and story-teller is waning. The literary epidemic for which he is responsible has raged with unabated violence in this country for the past ten years or more. But all epidemics exhaust themselves in time, and we are encouraged to believe that this one is nearly spent. A tabulation of the contents of our popular magazines would, now, we think, show a smaller proportion of pages unrecognizable for their bad spelling than would have been disclosed by a similar investigation made two years ago. Many a literary worker is beginning to suspect that to mispell as many words as possible is not exactly the noblest of ambitions. We by no means anticipate the complete disappearance of the dialect element from our imaginative literature, nor would such a reaction be desirable. But we do expect the time to come when dialect shall occupy its proper place. In composition, and be treated as a means rather than an end. There is an important distinction between the story written for the sake of dialect and the use of dialect for the sake of the story. The latter practice is as excusable or even praiseworthy as the former is reprehensible.

When used with discrimination and artistic restraint, dialect is, of course, an admissible element in both poetry and fiction. English literature would be far the poorer without the resources of Scotch, Irish, Welsh, and other dialects. Burns and the novels of the author of "Waverley." Likewise we could ill spare the work of the Provencal poets from the literature of France, or Goldoni's Venetian comedies from that of Italy or of Reuter's Plattdeutsch tales from that of Germany. Even in our country a similar plea may be made for the language of Hosea Biglow, or of Mr. Cable's creoles, or of Miss Murfree's Tennessee mountaineers. But the swarm of commonplace and uninspired scribbles of dialect that have descended upon our periodical press during the past decade need not hope to find a safe refuge in the shadow of such really significant names as have been cited. Their pretensions are too utterly without warrant and their productions too entirely without justification.—Chicago Dial.

## THE PUZZLE IN ANCESTRY.

A Mathematician Tries to Clear Up a Difficulty in Family Descent.

It goes without saying that a man has two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, and so on, so that if we go back, say, ten generations, doubling at each step, we have 2,048 ancestors. This sort of argument has been used by superficial genealogists to show that at the time of William the Conqueror each of us had more ancestors than the total population of England; hence we must each be descended from every Englishman of that day, including the immortal William himself.

The absurdity of this sort of reasoning has been pointed out by Professor Brooks of Johns Hopkins. His immediate object is to establish a point in the theory of evolution, but he confutes all silly analogies at the same time. While it is true that we do have four grandparents they need not be four separate and distinct persons. First cousins have not more than three separate grandparents. If they are doubly cousins, they have but two. So in the tenth generation one's 2,048 ancestors are never 2,048 separate persons. They abound in "duplicates," so to speak, as every one knows who has tried to trace his descent, not in one line, but in all possible lines. These duplicates abound especially in small communities whose inhabitants have intermarried for years. Besides this the lines from a given pair of ancestors tend to become extinct sooner or later, so as ancestry is traced back the probability is that all the persons living in a given community will be found to be descended, not from all, but from a very few—perhaps only one or two—of the inhabitants of the community as they were centuries ago. So, instead of having all Englishmen of the year 1000 for our ancestors, the probability is that we are descended from comparatively few of them; the number may be reduced to a few thousands, but one individual does duty for several scores, or even several hundreds of these, the lines of ancestry converging upon him from many different directions. This is what Professor Brooks calls the "convergence of ancestry."—Exchange.

## Rushing the Business.

The following story is told of a one time Pennsylvania legislator. The session was about to expire. In accordance with the usual custom, the chair was occupied by a rapid worker, who was deaf to objections and blind to objections. His name was Alexander McClure. Under his able management the bills were going through at a lightning express rate when one measure was reached that was particularly objectionable to a minority. Utterly oblivious to the demonstration, Mr. McClure declared that the bill had passed.

Over in one corner of the legislative chamber one member was especially vociferous. He would not be quieted, and Mr. McClure was finally compelled to notice him for the sake of peace.

"For what purpose does the gentleman rise?" asked the chair.

"I want to offer an amendment to the bill," was the reply.

"Too late," said Mr. McClure without a smile. "Offer it to the next bill. The clerk will read."—Washington Post.

## The Abbe's Retort.

A good story is told of Mr. Moland, the predecessor of Cardinal Desprez in the archbishopric of Toulouse. He was passing one day through the pig market when a man shouted at him, "There are only priests and pigs in this place." The abbe, who was stopped and said to the man, "My friend, are you a priest?" "Not I," returned the other. "Then," said the abbe, "you naturally are the other thing."—London Globe.

## Horses' False Tails.

It is said that horses appear on the streets now docked, now with long tails. The manufacture of false tails for horses has reached so high a degree of perfection that the counterfeit may be buckled on to the stump of a docked horse, and he will travel jingling beside a mate with a natural long tail defying detection.—New York Sun.

Mithridates is said to have known by name every soldier in his army of 10,000 to 20,000 men. He spoke 22 different languages, all that were used in his kingdom.

The first article of human clothing mentioned in history was an apron. It is spoken of in the book of Genesis, B. C. 4004.

## Commencement Program.

Following is the program for commencement exercises of Alma college: SUNDAY, June 16. Baccalaureate sermon at 3:30 p. m. Address before the Christian Associations at 7:30 p. m.

MONDAY, June 17. Class day. Examinations from 9 a. m. to 12 m. Class day exercises at 3:00 p. m.

TUESDAY, June 18. Graduating exercises of the Kindergarten department at 10 a. m. Examination of classes from 1:30 to 4:15 p. m.

WEDNESDAY, June 19. Annual concert at 8 p. m. Meeting of the Alumni Association at 3 p. m.

THURSDAY, June 20. Commencement at 10 a. m. President's reception from 8 to 10 p. m.

A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend each and all of the exercises. It is to be hoped our people will show their appreciation by a good attendance.

## Village Council.

ALMA, MICH., June 4, 1895. Regular meeting of the village council of the village of Alma at Council rooms on above date.

Present—President Ely and trustees Glass, Baker, Montfort, DeJans and Kelly. Absent—Garrett.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Upon motion the following claims were allowed and clerk instructed to issue orders for same at footing.

Gratiot County Printing Co. printing..... \$10.00  
J. E. Thompson, work at cemetery..... 10.00  
H. J. Verneulen, do..... 75  
J. F. Padelford, engineer..... 13.25  
J. E. Sullivan, health officer..... 6.75  
E. Kernen, fire and etc..... 92  
Garlock P. & Co., spiral packing..... 2.25  
J. M. Veltrop, and etc..... 1.00  
Standard Oil Co. gasoline..... 20.00  
Express Co., express on goods..... 1.00  
J. H. Dallas, street com..... 4.75  
Ed Sprague, do..... 2.50  
J. S. Howe, do..... 2.50  
J. A. Baker, 2 days board of review..... 4.00  
J. W. Morton, w..... 1.00

On motion the report of the street com. giving the condition of the sidewalk throughout the village was accepted and adopted and the clerk instructed to issue notices to repair the walks that are in bad condition.

The ways and means com. reported as follows: They find that the assessment roll for the year 1894 amounts to about \$100,000 and recommend that the rate be placed at 1 1/2 per cent. 1/2 of 1 per cent to be used for highway, and 1/2 per cent for general purposes.

On motion the above report of the ways and means com. was accepted and adopted.

On motion the clerk was instructed to demand of William McKinney, former village attorney, all the deeds, notes and other papers now in his possession.

Moved and supported that the marshal be instructed to stop the sale of land on the street and alleys of the village. Motion carried.

On motion council adjourned.

T. A. T. President. SETH A. T. Clerk.

## THACKERAY WAS ANGRY.

The Sailor Who Intended to Play a Trick Changed Their Minds.

Once upon a time the daughters of Thackeray saw that good man thoroughly and heartily angry—angry to the point of profanity. It was during their Italian journey, when they were returning to the ship in Genoa harbor after a day on the shore.

"We had to be on board at a certain time," Mrs. Thackeray says in her Macmillan paper, "so that we engaged a carriage and drove quickly to the quay, where the convicts, clanking in their chains, were still at work. A boat was moved, rowed by some sailors, who certainly did not wear chains, but who were otherwise not very unlike those industrious convicts in appearance. The bargain was made, we all five entered the boat, and as we were getting in we could see our great ship in the twilight, looking bigger than ever, and one rock et and then another going off toward the dawning stars.

"They are staring for us," said one of our companions. "We shall soon be on board."

"We had pulled some 20 strokes from the shore by this time when suddenly the boatman left off rowing. They put down their oars, and one of them began talking volubly, though I could not understand what he said. 'What's to be done?' said one of the young men to my father. They say they won't go on unless we give them 50 francs more," and he began shaking his head and remonstrating in broken Italian. The boatmen paid no attention, shrugging their shoulders and waiting as if they were determined never to row another stroke. Then the steamer sent up two more rockets, which rose through the twilight, bidding us hurry, and then, and only my father rose up in the stern of the boat where he was sitting, and, standing tall and erect and in an anger such as I had never seen him in before or after in all my life, he shouted out in loud and impatient English, "Do you go!"

Asimple malediction which carried more force than all the Italian polysyllables and expostulations of our companions. To our surprise and great relief, the men seemed frightened; they took to their oars again and began to row, grumbling and muttering. When we got on board the ship, they told us it was a well known trick the Genoese boatmen were in the habit of playing upon travelers and that they would have sent a boat for us if we had delayed any longer."

In matter nature allows no atom to elude its grasp; in mind, no thought or feeling to perish. It gathers up the fragments that nothing be lost.—Thomas

## A TOO MODEST WOMAN.

Is such a thing possible? It is.

Many a woman suffers month after month, whole years, because she shrinks from talking about her complaints.

Foolish do you say? No, it is simply due to a natural, commendable modesty. Still she owes it to herself either to consult a good Physician or else to get the Zoa-Phora Medical Book on Diseases of Women and Children, and, after satisfying herself that Zoa-Phora is what she needs, obtain a bottle or a box of it and use it faithfully. Both the book and medicine may be obtained either direct from the Zoa-Phora Medicine Co., at Kalamazoo, Mich. or through your druggist. All correspondence is kept strictly confidential.

Sold by B. S. Webb and B. Van Den Bergh.

Photographed from Life.

1st Day. 15th Day. THE GREAT 30th Day.

REVIVO RESTORES VITALITY. Made a Well Man of Me.

THE GREAT 30th Day.

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## ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE.—State of Mich.

County of Gratiot, ss. In the matter of the estate of Mary Bigelow, deceased. Notice is hereby given, that in pursuance of and order granted to the undersigned administrator of the estate of said Mary Bigelow by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Gratiot, on the 18th day of May, A. D. 1895, there will be sold at public vendue to the highest bidder, at the premises, in the county of Gratiot, in said State, on Monday, the 8th day of July, A. D. 1895, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of that day subject to all encumbrances by mortgage or otherwise existing at the time of the death of said deceased, or at the time of said sale, the following described real estate, to-wit:

The north-east quarter of south-west quarter of section twenty-two, town eleven (11) north of range three (3) west, Gratiot county, Michigan, excepting four acres in the south-west corner, described as follows: Commencing at the south-west corner of said section twenty-two, thence north-westly direction 22 rods, thence north-westly direction 22 rods to the center of the Maple Rapids and Alma state road, thence up center of said state road 22 rods to a point where said state road crosses the west line of the above described 4 acres, thence south 1/2 rods to point of beginning, being four (4) acres of land, more or less.

Dated Ithaca, Mich. 21st, 1895.

DARICE BRIDG, Administrator.

S67W

MORTGAGE SALE:—Whereas default has been made in the payment of money secured by a mortgage dated the thirtieth day of September, A. D. 1893, made and executed by Matthew E. Wood, then of Aurora, Michigan, said mortgage given for the purchase price of said premises, to Gerrit S. Ward, in trust for W. S. Turck & Co. of Alma, Michigan, which said mortgage was recorded in the office of the register of deeds of the county of Gratiot, in book 7 of mortgages on pages 92-93, on the second day of October, A. D. 1893, at 10 o'clock a. m., and which is now owned by said mortgagee, and whereas the amount claimed to be due on said mortgage at the date of this notice is the sum of \$1,000.00, and whereas the sum of \$500.00 of said mortgage and the interest on the same, as well as all interest thereon, are now due and payable, the amount claimed as due upon said mortgage at date hereof is the sum of seven hundred and fourteen dollars and eighty-nine cents, and no proceedings have been instituted to collect the same, or any part thereof, either at law or in equity; notice is hereby given that by virtue of the power of sale in said mortgage contained, and of the statute in such case provided, the premises described in said mortgage, to-wit: The north half of the south-east quarter of section eleven, in township eleven north, of range two west, situated in Gratiot county, state of Michigan, in the township eleven north, of range two west, at the front door of the court house in the village of Ithaca, state of Michigan, on the twenty-second day of July, A. D. 1895, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day, which said premises are described in said mortgage, as follows, to-wit:

The north-east quarter of the north-east quarter of section twenty-two, town eleven (11) north of range three (3) west, Gratiot county, Michigan, excepting four acres in the south-west corner, described as follows: Commencing at the south-west corner of said section twenty-two, thence north-westly direction 22 rods, thence north-westly direction 22 rods to the center of the Maple Rapids and Alma state road, thence up center of said state road 22 rods to a point where said state road crosses the west line of the above described 4 acres, thence south 1/2 rods to point of beginning, being four (4) acres of land, more or less.

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